

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for depositing a coating on one face of a-at least one container made of a thermoplastic using a low-pressure plasma by excitation of a precursor gas by UHF electromagnetic waves in a circular vacuum chamber containing said container, wherein the chamber is sized in relation to the a frequency of the UHF electromagnetic waves is selected and said chamber is sized such that so as to obtain a coupling mode that generates is generated which generates several electromagnetic fields inside the chamber, and wherein several containers are disposed inside said chamber, each container being coaxial with a respective one of said electromagnetic fields, whereby it is possible for several respective containers to be simultaneously treated in the same chamber.

2. (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a TM 120 coupling mode is established, which generates two central fields (4_A,4_B) inside the chamber, whereby two containers can be simultaneously treated in said chamber.

3. (withdrawn-currently amended): A device for depositing a coating on one face of a-at least one container made of a thermoplastic using a low-pressure plasma by excitation of a precursor gas by UHF electromagnetic waves in a circular vacuum chamber containing said container, which device comprises a UHF wave generator and a UHF waveguide for connecting

said generator to a window of the a side wall of the chamber, wherein said generator emits an electromagnetic wave having a frequency $f = 2.455$ GHz, and wherein the diameter of said chamber is about 273 mm the chamber is sized in relation to the frequency of the UHF electromagnetic waves in order to establish a TM 120 coupling mode that generates two central fields ($4_A, 4_B$) in the cavity, whereby it is possible for two containers to be simultaneously treated inside said chamber.

4. (canceled).

5. (withdrawn-currently amended): The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the said chamber contains two quartz envelopes mounted in a vacuum-tight manner in the chamber and placed respectively so as to be approximately substantially coaxial with the two central fields ($4_A, 4_B$), in that wherein the said chamber includes a single window for injecting the UHF waves, the said window being located along the axis of symmetry of the two central fields ($4_A, 4_B$), and in that wherein a single cover for closing off the said chamber is equipped with a single coupler for connection to a vacuum source, which coupler is divided into two (at 11) in order to be connected to the abovementioned said two respective envelopes, with two precursor gas injectors that are connected to a single precursor gas source and with two support means for the two respective containers.

6. (withdrawn-currently amended): The device as claimed in claim 5, wherein it includes positionally adjustable bottom (17) and top (17s) plates suitable for acting on the

respective return fields (S_A , S_B) so as to refine the coupling according to the in relation with various types of container that can to be treated.

7. (withdrawn-currently amended): The device as claimed in claim 5, wherein it is being designed for coating the inside of containers and in thatwherein for this purpose, the precursor gas injectors are designed to sit inside the respective containers when the lattersaid containers are supported by support means inside the respective envelopes.